Office of General Counsel

9 June 1953

Acting Chief, Finance Division

Shipment of Privately-owned Vehicles

PROBLEM: The legality of shipment of a second privately-owned antomobile to a Foreign post.

2. FACTS: The Agency will transport for or on behalf of an officer or employee of the Agency a privately owned automobile in any case where it shall be determined that water, rail or air transportation of the auto-OGC mobile is necessary or expedient for any part or all of the distance between points of origin and destination, and pay costs of such transportation. FOIAB5

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prescribes Agency policy and procedure to govern the application of this legislative authority. Such expenses, in addition, may be allowed in accordance with applicable provisions of the Foreign Service Regulations. Section 5 of Foreign Service Travel Regulations governs payment of such expenses. (c) contains procedural information on such shipments but makes no mention of a second car shipment.

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Under 10.8 of CFR's, special authority for shipment of Household Goods and Automobiles can be authorized for those employees who return to the United States for temporary duty or home leave and enter into a new 24 months overseas agreement, and then return to their Foreign post.

- 3. DISCUSSION: The presentation of a recent case to the Finance Division raises some hypothetical situations involving second shipment of a personal vehicle, which are outlined below:
 - a. An employee has continuously served at his Foreign post for three or four years. The original vehicle shipped on his behalf has been sold, wrecked, stolen, or exposed to some other condition which makes a replacement vehicle necessary. Will the Agency honor employee's request to ship second vehicle at Government expense?
 - b. An employee who has already shipped one vehicle at Government expense desires another for some other member of his family and is willing to bear the expense of shipment from his personal funds. Is it proper for him to use dovernment facilities for this type of shipment, taking into consideration the saving of entry and customs fees applicable to a private shipment and the additional burden placed on Agency's administration and handling?

c. An employee has

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c. An employee has returned for home leave; he previously shipped a vehicle at Government expense to his original PCS; he now re-enters into another two-year agreement, the PCS remaining the same post at which he initially served. Is he entitled to ship a second vehicle at Government expense with each successive tour of duty? It is our impression that Section 10.8 of CFR's applies only in cases where the employee has not shipped effects on the first tour of duty.

The above represent some typical cases that the Agency will be confronted with in the foreseeable future.

- 4. CONCLUSION: It appears desirable that a policy and procedure be set forth with regard to the handling of requests from employees for the second shipment of their privately-owned vehicles.
- 5. RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that a legal opinion be rendered concerning the above problems, to be used as a guide in advice to employees.

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